

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
INITIAL AND FINAL POLLUTION REPORT**

DATE: 21 JULY 03

FROM: Art Smith, OSC
USEPA Region 4

TO: Shane Hitchcock, EPA
Region 4, Regional Response Center (RRC)

I. GENERAL SITE INFORMATION

Site Name: Nite Lites Pyrotechnics
Street Address: 2200 Zhale Smith Rd.
City, County, State: LaGrange, Oldham County, KY
Site No.: 04ZZ (NRC Report No. 649822)

Response Authority: CERCLA
NPL Status: Non-NPL
Incident Category: Emergency
State Notification: KYEMA
Start Date: 03JULY03
Finish Date: 03JULY03

II BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. Type of Facility: Storage of commercial fireworks and precursor chemicals
B. Site Description: Residence

III RESPONSE INFORMATION

On 02 July 03 the Oldham County, Kentucky, Police Department (PD) responded to 2200 Zhale Smith Road in La Grange, Oldham County, Kentucky, based on a report of illegal fireworks sales and observed a large quantity of fireworks in plain view. Oldham County PD requested response by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the joint response discovered fireworks manufacturing precursors in addition to the packaged fireworks. ATF confiscated the packaged Class B fireworks for destruction and left the scene.

The chemical precursors were found exposed to the atmosphere in labeled and unlabeled containers, deteriorating packages and uncontained product on the floor of the open air shed. The Oldham County Judge Executive was notified of the situation and promptly declared the site to be a hazardous materials incident. The Kentucky Emergency Management Agency (KY EMA), Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection

(KY DEP) and Kentucky State Police (KSP) Hazardous Devices Unit were notified. KY EMA responded that night and, after conferring with other responders on site, requested that U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Art Smith respond the next morning to evaluate the incident.

OSC Smith and START-Louisville responder John Floyd arrived on site 03 July 03 at approximately 0930 hours. The packaged fireworks and chemical precursors were in a dilapidated, three-sided metal shed approximately 25' by 25'. Representatives of KY EMA, KY DEP, Kentucky Fire Marshall (KY FM), KSP Hazardous Devices Unit, Oldham County Judge Exec, Oldham County EMA, PD, Fire Department (FD), Sheriff and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were present. The property owner met with the responders and gave his consent to investigation, removal, and disposal of any or all of the materials in the shed.

A safety and organizational meeting was held at approximately 1045 hours to brief responders on safety concerns, anticipated explosive and chemical hazards and proposed operational sequence of events. Jim Morse, Oldham County Deputy Judge Executive, was identified as the Incident Commander. OSC Smith and Oldham County EMA John Detherage shared Safety duties, KSP Ken Heavrin was the Operations Manager and Oldham County PD Greg Collett was the Public Information Officer. Safety concerns included heat stress, insect and animal bites, slip, trip, and fall hazards. Chemical hazards included shock sensitive compounds, oxidizers, fuels, volatile and flammable materials (including metals). The following general operational sequence was proposed:

- 1) Establish operational areas (exclusion zone, decontamination, entry/exit points, etc.)
- 2) Move abandoned vehicles to provide clear access to responders
- 3) Screen atmosphere inside the shed for combustible vapors
- 4) Screen, segregate, and containerize materials

At approximately 1145 hours, a dry decontamination line was established, barrier tape was put in place to identify the exclusion zone, and EMS began medical monitoring for all entry personnel. A wrecker was brought in to move several abandoned vehicles, including a box truck containing several chemical precursors. KSP personnel removed and segregated the precursors prior to the box truck being moved.

An Operations meeting was held at approximately 1240 hours to confirm the operational sequence of events. OSC Smith and START responder John Floyd entered the exclusion zone at approximately 1315 hours to screen the atmosphere inside the shed. No deflections above background were noted. No obvious signs of a chemical release were noted around the perimeter of the shed.

At approximately 1330 hours, KSP began the process of screening, removing and segregating all the materials from the shed. The chemical precursors and live fireworks were logged and photographed as they were removed and segregated.

Screening, segregation, and containerization continued throughout the afternoon. KSP

personnel focused on containerizing live fireworks, mortars, fuses, and gunpowder and placing these items in a closed trailer for transportation and destruction at an approved off-site location. START-Louisville focused on containerizing, segregating, and labeling the remaining chemical precursors which were then placed back in the shed.

By approximately 1930 hours, KSP had loaded all the materials scheduled for destruction on the trailer and START-Louisville had placed all the containerized precursors back in the shed. OSC Smith and START responders demobilized at approximately 2015 hours.

IV FUTURE ACTIONS

No further federal response actions are planned. Oldham County Emergency Management Agency will coordinate any further response action.

V ESTIMATED COSTS

EPA START-2 contractor costs are approximately \$4,500.00

VI. ROSTER OF AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN REMOVAL

| Organization/Agency | Primary Contact | Phone Number | Role/Activity |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| USEPA R4 | Art Smith | 502-582-5161 | On-Scene Coordinator |
| Kentucky State Police | Jack Edwards | 859-293-4500 | Hazardous Devices Unit |
| KY EMA | Sharon Perkins | 502-636-0439 | State EMA |
| KY DEP DWM | John Michels | 502-425-4543 | State Responder |
| KY Fire Marshall | Gordan Scott | 502-573-0382 | State Responder |
| START-Tetra Tech | John Floyd | 502-357-9357 | START 4 Responder |
| Oldham County Deputy Judge/Executive | James Morse | 502-574-6650 | Incident Commander |
| Oldham County EMA | John Detherage | 502-777-8733 | County Responder |
| Oldham County Police | Greg Collett | 502-222-2220 | Public Information Officer |
| Nite Lites Pyrotechnics | Ed Petrzilka | 502-222-8811 | Property Owner |